

In the Claims

Please cancel claims 1-10 and 16-20 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 11-15 as shown herein.

Claims 11-15 are pending and are listed following:

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1-10. canceled

11. (amended) In a computer network including a host computer, a print server and at least one image-forming device ~~wherein~~ that utilizes a marking material ~~is used for creating~~ to create images on a print media, a method for calculating ~~the~~ an amount of the marking material ~~required to print~~ for a print job submitted by a user, the method comprising the steps of:

converting a the print job to a universal ~~file~~ format file;
transmitting a the universal ~~file~~ format file to a print server;
~~opening~~ copying the universal ~~file~~ format file to generate a copied file;

and

as a first task:

converting the universal ~~file~~ format file to a page description language (PDL) file;

processing the ~~print job~~ PDL file including at least selecting an image-forming device for the print job; ~~and~~

transmitting the ~~print job~~ PDL file to the selected image-forming device to print the print job; and

as a second task, separate from the first task ~~utilizing the copy of the universal file format file:~~

converting the copied file of the universal ~~file~~ format file to raster data;

counting the number of image elements corresponding to the print job contained in the ~~print job~~ raster data; and

calculating the amount of the marking material ~~required to print~~ for the print job using based on a predetermined amount of marking material for printing an individual image element.

12. (amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the first and second tasks are performed by the print server in parallel.

13. (amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the second task is performed by the print server in ~~the~~ a background process of the print server background.

14. (amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one image-forming device is a laser printer, and wherein the marking material comprises toner for use in a the laser printer.

15. (amended) The method of Claim 11 wherein the at least one image-forming device is an ink jet printer, and wherein the marking material comprises ink for use in ~~an~~ the ink jet printer.

16-20. canceled